

The Semaphore

A PUBLICATION OF TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

HAPPY NEW YEAR/HAPPY NEW MILLENNIUM



TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS

Voice Mail/Hotline: 255-6799. Fax: 255-6499. Web Site: www.thd.org

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1999-2000

PRESIDENT: Aaron Peskin
522 Filbert, 986-7014

VICE PRESIDENT: Joe Luttrell
28 Napier Lane, 433-2105

RECORDING SEC'Y:
Karen Kevorkian
17 Bob Kauffman, 421-4832

CORRESPONDING SEC'Y:
Arthur Chang
260 Bay, 331-9595 x 733

TREASURER: Paul Switzer
341 Filbert, 788-8667

FINANCIAL SEC'Y: Rozell
Overmire, 293 Union, 989-3945

HISTORIAN: Dennis McElrath
383 Lombard, 397-0201

Ex Officio:
Gerry Crowley
7 Fielding, 781-4201

Semaphore Staff:
SEMAPHORE EDITOR:
Patricia Cady
480 Vallejo, 397-2175

**ADVERTISING & BUSINESS
MANAGER:** Sheila Black
1424 Kearny, 398-7090

TYPESETTING/DESIGN:
Chris Carlsson, Typesetting Etc.,
1095 Market Street, Suite 210,
626-2160

DIRECTORS 1999-2001
Brendan Kelly
1931 Grant Avenue, 713-4546
Leo McLaughlin
212 Union, 434-4625
Audrey Tomaselli
6 Gerke, 391-1792
Howard Wong
128 Varennes, 982-5055

DIRECTORS 1998-1999:
James Attwood
221 Filbert, 433-6118
Sheila Black
1424 Kearny, 398-7090
Larry Habegger
8 Napier Lane, 986-6560
Dale Weidmer
373 Lombard, 781-0335

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Editor's Desk	3
President's Letter	5
THD Board Resolutions	7
Social News	7
Neighborhood Beautification Report	8
Free Events	8
Membership Report	9
Planning & Zoning Report	10
Pioneer Park Update	16

Nice Renovation on Castle Street	18
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: Joe Jachetta	19
600 Vallejo Street.	21
Walk on the Wild Side	25
Recycle Hazardous Wastes!	28
Neighborhood News.	29
Classified	29
We Remember	30
THD Committees Need You.	31
THD Calendar.	32

COVER: Sbandieratori d'Assisi, drumming, trumpet-ing flag throwers from Italy celebrated the designation of St. Francis of Assisi Church as a National Shrine on October 5. This view near the corner of Vallejo Street and Grant Avenue is a pen and ink sketch by Rod Freebairn-Smith.

Dwellers for its members. Articles, except for the summary of Board of Directors' Motions, do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Association or its Officers, but are the opinions of the writers of the individual signed articles. The Association can take no responsibility for their content. This membership publication is not to be reprinted or disseminated without written permission.



Printed on Recycled paper

The Semaphore is a publication of the Telegraph Hill

EDITOR'S DESK

The *Examiner* called Tom Ammiano's candidacy a miracle, confusing the miraculous with the inevitable—to judge from the number of locals who moved fast to get out the write-in vote. An impromptu rally in Washington Square took place October 31; two days later Ammiano was in the race.

It was a different story October 5 when twelve other candidates participated in Candidate's Night, a town hall meeting sponsored by the North Beach, Russian Hill and Telegraph Hill neighborhood associations. The usually packed and lively event fell flat. Outside, police cars inexplicably lined the street. Inside, skilled, trained officers could not protect the listening public from dying of boredom.

We're told San Francisco's grassroots examples inspire other cities to send their own politicians home to play their recording of *Money Can't Buy Me Love*. We try to get the best leadership we can, mindful that the mayor, and mayoral appointees, have the power to permanently change our distinctive neighborhoods.

The feisty and idealistic founders of our organization worked hard for candidates they believed in and stood first in line at the polls. Telegraph Hill Dwellers' bylaws prohibit endorsing specific political candidates, but all members are asked to vote December 14.

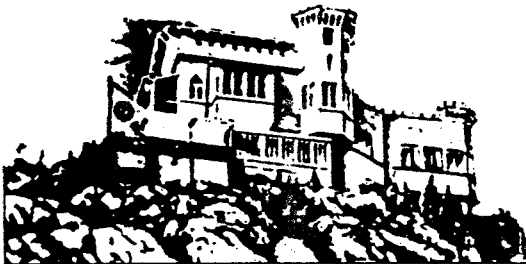
JULIUS CASTLE

1541 Montgomery St. San Francisco, CA
Atop Telegraph Hill overlooking San Francisco Bay
Featuring exquisite continental cuisine,
elegant service, rare vintage wines and spirits
with unsurpassed views in an intimate atmosphere.

A San Francisco Tradition since 1922.

Lunch Monday - Friday from 11:30-4:00 p.m.
Evenings from 5:00-10:00 p.m.

All major credit cards accepted. / Valet Parking / Private Parties Welcome



For reservations please call 362-3042

Freebairn-Smith & Crane Planning, Urban Design, Architecture

Rod Freebairn-Smith
Janet Crane
(415) 398 4094

North Beach Investors

"Unbiased, straight forward, no strings attached advice"

R. Scott Durcanin
Partner

For all of your ROTH IRA, 401K to ROTH IRA conversion, and retirement planning needs

Securities offered through Linsco/Private Ledger
Member NASD & SIPC

8556 Columbus Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94133
phone: 788-2382

web: www.lpl.com/scott.durcanin

email: scott.durcanin@lpl.com

ESPRESSO

CAPPUCCINO

VINO

PANINI



423 Columbus Ave.
San Francisco, CA 94133
415-397-6261

Hanna & Sandy Suleiman



NORTH BEACH PIZZA, INC.
1499 Grant Avenue
San Francisco, California 94133

New Location Now Open at
1310 Grant Avenue near Vallejo

(415) 433-2444

Fax (415) 433-7217

sem.a.phore

Definition: To convey information using visual signals, such as flags, lights and mechanical arms.

In the last century, Telegraph Hill was a lookout spot. A man stood at the top and watched for ships arriving through the Golden Gate. He used semaphore signals to spell out ships' names to the people below who were waiting for goods and mail. Neighbors who formed Telegraph Hill Dwellers in 1954 named their newsletter to salute this early use of the Hill.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



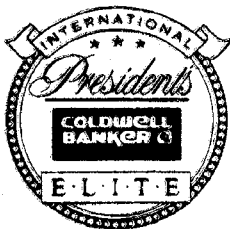
Season's greetings and a special welcome to the 52 new THD members who joined since the last Semaphore. What's behind all this new membership? It's hard to say. But as Nancy Shanahan pointed out, when James Watt was the Secretary of the Interior, membership in environmental organizations reached new heights. Now, with the overheated economic environment and permissive permitting climate, it seems like open season for developers in San Francisco. Perhaps, when there's an onslaught, when people feel their community is under fire, they rise to the occasion and organizations like the Hill Dwellers become all the more important.

We have been successful in a number of cases, despite the efforts of City Planning officials who usually seem to take the side of chain

store sponsors and developers —no matter the impacts on the community. Don't get me wrong, the majority of the projects we see come our way are benign. Only a handful stand to have ruinous impacts. Yet, the Planning Department champions even these projects.

Three major battles come to mind and in each case, with great effort, we persevered. Through our volunteer efforts, good coverage in the press, and with the help of the Board of Supervisors, and in one case through legal challenge, we managed to block a 10,000 square foot, 24-hour Rite Aid store from occupying the Pagoda Theater across from Washington Square, we saved the Colombo Building (at 1 Columbus

continued on next page



LOUIS J. SILCOX, JR

REALTOR® ASSOCIATE

Previews

'94 - '97 Top Producer

1699 Van Ness Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94109

Business 415.474.1750 x298

Fax 415.771.1264

Direct 415.474.1845 x298

Residence 415.788.2008

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

continued from previous page

Ave.) from the wrecker's ball, and prevented an oversized condominium development project on Alta Street from overshadowing the Grace Marchant Garden and ruining the small scale of the surrounding Telegraph Hill Historic District.

But we are tired. As you can imagine or may have experienced yourself, it is an endlessly consuming task, dealing with these issues on a case-by-case basis. Defending the Hill and North Beach one project at a time takes a lot of time (off work), energy and money.

So in the grand tradition of previous THD boards who worked to get the 40-foot height limit enacted, and the Telegraph Hill Historic District passed, we have turned to the Board of Supervisors to make modest and responsible changes to the Planning Code that will not only safeguard our neighborhoods' character but will spare us these one-after-the-other battles. The legislative changes we have been advocating won't be a total panacea but will give us a modicum of relief. Our foray into the legislative arena has been interesting and exciting, also equally challenging and time-consuming but with greater long-term rewards.

The Board of Supervisors and particularly Supervisors Leno, Yee, Ammiano and Becerril have helped us move three pieces of legislation forward. After working closely together for over a year, Supervisor Leno has succeeded in moving legislation which will amend the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District Ordinance to prohibit large stores over 4,000 square feet from the district (this should take care of Rite Aid and the like once and for all). Working with Supervisor Becerril, we succeeded (in the face of strong opposition from the

Planning Department) in passing a resolution formally recognizing a historic architectural survey of North Beach; this will require the Planning Department to consult the North Beach Survey as a record of historic resources when approving permits for demolition, modification or new development within the survey area, giving some added protection to the neighborhood's architectural fabric. And on the eve of the 150th anniversary of the creation of Washington Square we are on the verge of obtaining coveted landmark status for the park.

Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to help in ways big and small. It has been a productive year, protecting the neighborhood. To you new members and to you old ones: there is plenty to do. Give me a call and I'll tell you how you can help.

WEB SITE = www.thd.org

That's Us! Pete Overmire (989-3945), a longtime THDer and former officer has set up this site for Telegraph Hill Dwellers. Access it to see the sensational look he has created, impressive to local and international browsers alike. Lend him photographs and graphics relevant to the Hill that he can scan in. Call or e-mail information about upcoming meetings in the neighborhood and at City agencies, and ideas and concerns you want the rest of us to know about between Semaphores.

Is this your last Semaphore?

If the mailing label is dated September 1, 1999 or earlier, your membership has lapsed and we hope you'll rectify that situation with a check. If you think our records are incorrect or you are in doubt about your membership status, please contact Membership Chair, Rozell Overmire, phone 989-3945. E-mail rozell@overmire.com.

THD BOARD RESOLUTIONS

August 10, 1999 The Board endorsed the Rescue Muni charter amendment and ballot initiative; it authorized payment for, and agreed to write, ballot arguments endorsing Proposition I and opposing Proposition J for the November 2 election.

Vallejo Street. Agreed to change THD's letterhead logo, including removing the image of the 39 bus. (A new letterhead logo has not yet been adopted.) Agreed to attempt to negotiate enforceable conditions regarding Rite Aid's proposed occupancy of the North Point Theater building.

THE BOARD ALSO

Agreed to explore procedures and costs related to replacing two dead street trees at 610

September 14, 1999 No motions.

October 12, 1999 No motions.

SOCIAL & PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT


By Mary Purdy-Read

Because there's a slim chance this issue will reach you before the Holiday Party (home delivery is usually around the 10th, sometimes earlier), I'm reminding members that the party takes place at Julius' Castle on Sunday, December 5, from 2:30-4:30 PM. Members pay \$5.00; they may bring one guest for \$15.00. Owner Jeffrey Pollack's generous hospitality and wonderful buffets have brightened holiday seasons for Telegraph Hill Dwellers for many years.

The dinner event on October 25 was a huge success. A potluck, held at the South End Rowing Club at Hyde and Jefferson Streets, packed the dining hall. Members shared a variety of good things to eat and roamed the building, inspecting fine old boats and historic photographs. They failed to convince swimmers heading out to the chilly bay at twilight to stop such madness and come in and eat. Our guest was David Binder who compiles voter statistics. He presented facts and figures of past races and explained how they might impact the November 2 election. His interesting presentation was

timely and ended an evening which everyone enjoyed.

CITY LIGHTS
YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BOOKSTORE



261 Columbus @ Broadway phone: 362-8193
Open Everyday, from 10 A.M. - Midnight

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

By Staci Shember

We gave our second THD Preservationist Award at the dinner meeting on October 25. The award went to the owners of 37 Calhoun Street, Amy Grissom and David Cohen, as well as to their architect, Hillary Bates. 37 Calhoun is a non-contributory building in the historic district, however, the owners and architect reworked the cottage's exterior to be more in conformance with both the historic district and its neighboring buildings. Stucco and modern windows were removed and wooden (smaller) windows and horizontal wood siding were returned to its exterior. They also chose not to raze or demolish this delightful home, but instead to value its charming historicity. THD's Planning and Zoning Committee was delighted to review this project, instead of the usual presentations of adding new floors, changing conditional uses, etc. So please join us in thanking all three of these individuals for their hard work and appreciation of our historic resources, and please, drop by the last house on upper Calhoun (a one-block street off Union Street on the east side of the hill) to see the lovely home they've preserved and restored.

Also, IDG Films is still accepting donations for help with its film, *The Parrots of San Francisco*. As most of you know, Mark Bittner has moved from the Hill, but lots of footage needs to be developed before this film can be edited and released. We'd love to see the story on PBS, so please help by sending tax-deductible donations to: IDG Films, 394 Elizabeth Street, San Francisco, 94114. Producer/Director Judy Irving

will be happy to send you a receipt on request.

Lastly, please feel free to email sirrobyn@msn.com with suggestions for awards in the Green Thumb, Preservationist, Heritage, and Voice of the Hill categories. Thanks!

FREE CONCERTS

Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi
610 Vallejo Street. 415-983-0405

4:00 PM Sunday concerts in the church feature guest artists and the Shrine's own musicians in performances of chamber and choral music and recitals on the acclaimed Schoenstein pipe organ. Stop by and pick up a schedule of programs



PETER RULES! Peter Macchiarini in a rickshaw pulled by his fans to Enrico's where the neighborhood celebrated his 90th birthday. Photo by Jean Dierkes-Carlisle

NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

For a Voice in Your Neighborhood Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

San Francisco's first neighborhood organization was started by a few residents who stopped highrise developments on Telegraph Hill. Almost 50 years later, 700 members strong, THD acts forcefully on concerns affecting North Beach, the Waterfront/Embarcadero and our famous Hill.

RECEIVE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION COPY OF THE *Semaphore Magazine*. Read about issues affecting the neighborhood. Find out what you can do to influence them.

WORK ON A COMMITTEE. THD committees are described on the last page.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS. Join Telegraph Hill Dwellers for dinners and cocktail parties at local restaurants.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS who have joined us since publication of the last *Semaphore*, Jet Auer de Saram & Lance Auer, Susan Baldwin, Sheldon Berk, Rose Chung, Gail Cohen, Michael & Annette DeNuzio, Myrna Elgie, Robert English, Holly Erickson, Jeffry Fawcett, Justin Finnicoun, Angie Geiger, Keith & Susan Gilbert, Paul Gogna, Franc Harriss, Wendy Herlosky, Lynn Hickerson, Harold Jaffe, David Kennedy, Michael Mallonee, Gareth Meyrick, Mary Nelson, Todd Oppenheimer, Joe Parilli, George Perrazo & Patricia Yap, Laura & Richard Pimentel, Diana Preddy, Mr & Mrs Charles Rambo, Jeff Ranta, Polly Rizzuti, Judith Robinson, Sharon Robinson & Rix Kramlich, Carole Surch, Barbara Shupin, Lino del Signore, Gower & Robyn Smith, William & Barbara Thornton, William Tichy, Priscilla & Jim Troy, Thomas Wedemer, Jessika Werchick, David Whittall, Mercedes Virzi.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign Up, or Sign a Friend Up, as a member of Telegraph Hill Dwellers.

Complete and mail to THD, PO Box 330159, SF, CA 94133

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR 1-YEAR MEMBERSHIP

Single \$25 _____ Family \$40 _____ Senior \$15 _____

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Nancy Shanahan and Aaron Peskin

The following are updates of ongoing projects and information on new projects since the last *Semaphore*. For more information about a specific project or to get involved in the Planning & Zoning Committee please call Nancy at 986-7070.

I. PROJECTS IN THE TELEGRAPH HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT

(This historic district on the east side of Telegraph Hill was established by the Board of Supervisors in 1986 to preserve the largest group of pre-1870 structures in the City.)

1. Grace Marchant Garden/Alta Street Condo Development (20-30 Alta). The Sunshine Ordinance Task Force held over 6 hours of public hearings on THD's complaint against the Planning Department for denying public access to environmental documents in the City's files that were available to and used by the developers in their presentations to the Landmarks Board. Hillary Gitelman of the Planning Department admitted that following THD's request for these documents her staff had been instructed to destroy them. The Sunshine Task Force is expected to make formal recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission about the need for the Planning Department to adopt a policy and procedures consistent with the Sunshine Ordinance which would require uniform access to environmental documents by the public and developers alike. As to the status of the project, discussions between the developers and THD are ongoing with regard to a new design concept which would reduce the total square footage to bring the size of the project into conformance with the historic district guidelines.

2. Other Projects in the Telegraph Hill Historic District. THD gave its Heritage of the Hill award to the owners (Amy Grissom and David Cohen) and architect (Hillary Bates) of **37 Calhoun** in recognition of their renovation which brought this building more in keeping with the character of the historic district. The construction of the garage beneath the historic building at **293 Union Street** is nearing completion and the project which is still underway immediately across the street at **290 Union Street** is being monitored by P & Z to ensure compliance with the Planning Commission's conditions of approval which require a preservation architect to oversee the exterior modifications.

II. PROJECTS IN THE NORTHEAST WATERFRONT HISTORIC DISTRICT

(This historic warehouse district established by the Board of Supervisors in 1983 is bounded by The Embarcadero, Sansome, Broadway and Union Streets).

1. Sansome Street Cliffs/Calhoun Terrace. In response to letters from THD and numerous individuals, the Planning Department has determined that an Environmental Impact Report must be prepared on this proposal to subdivide into three lots the property at 88 Calhoun Terrace/1171 Sansome Street (currently one lot located between lower Calhoun Terrace, Sansome, Union and Green) and build a four-story residence fronting on Calhoun Terrace which would require the construction of an extension of Calhoun Terrace. The lower part of the lot is located within the Northeast Waterfront Historic District and the upper part is surrounded by the Telegraph Hill Historic District. The status of this project will be monitored

PLANNING AND ZONING

closely by THD.

2. **1088 Sansome.** The P & Z Committee heard a preliminary proposal to add two stories to this 3-story historic warehouse building in the Northeast Waterfront Historic District. Committee members were uncomfortable with the proposal and its potential impact on the historic district. The project sponsor was asked to limit the addition to one additional floor, to "step back" the added story and to make sure that the proposed design would conform to the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Properties.

3. **150 Green St. (1100 Sansome).** A proposal has been made to convert some of the below grade portion of this structure to parking and to convert the first floor parking spaces to office space for a net increase in office space of about 4,360 square feet and net loss in parking spaces of 13 valet/35 independently accessible. No expansion of the building envelope is proposed and, according to environmental documents issued by the Planning Department, only minor altera-

tions to the exterior are proposed. The P & Z Committee will be reviewing the plans. Because the building is a "Contributory" building within the Northeast Waterfront Historic District, any proposed exterior alterations will require review by the Landmarks Board and the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

4. **Proposed Hotel at the Embarcadero and Broadway.** This Port/City project is to develop a luxury hotel on the 2-block site in the Northeast Waterfront Historic District (including the Port's property at the Embarcadero and Broadway, together with most of the block currently owned by CALTRANS that is bounded by Broadway, Davis, Vallejo and Front Streets). The Port requested proposals for a 400-

continued on page 12

The Washington Square Inn

**1660 Stockton Street
San Francisco
CA 94133**

(415) 981-4220

What San Francisco Is Coming To.



1652 Stockton St. San Francisco. Lunch & Dinner Daily.
Sunday Brunch. Reservations 989-7800.

PLANNING AND ZONING

room, 65-foot high (plus roof top additions for an additional 10 feet) structure on this 2-block site to be connected by a pedestrian bridge over Davis Street and is now conducting exclusive negotiations with Stanford Hospitality, Inc. Previous invitations to the developer to make a presentation at a P & Z Committee meeting have not been accepted, but we will continue to extend the invitation.

5. **Proposed Low-Income Housing (at Broadway and Battery).** The City plans to develop an affordable/low income housing project on another CALTRANS parcel (at Broadway and Battery) located in the Northeast Waterfront Historic District. After receiving proposals from two nonprofit housing developers, the Mayor's Office of Housing has selected and is now conducting exclusive negotiations with Chinatown Community Development Corporation (CCDC) to build and manage the project using Prop A low income housing bonds. No design has been proposed. CCDC understands that the site is within

the historic district and has agreed to work with THD to design a compatible project.

6. **Proposed New Central Police Station (at Broadway and Sansome).** The proposed location for a new Central Police Station on a third CALTRANS parcel is adjacent to the Northeast Waterfront Historic District and borders on the Jackson Square Historic District. The rendering of the proposed new structure, to be designed by the City's Bureau of Architecture, reveals a design which is *completely* out of character with its location. The P & Z Committee has expressed its willingness to work with the Bureau of Architecture and the Police Department on the project's design.

III. OTHER WATERFRONT PROJECTS

1. **1301 Sansome.** The Filbert Steps/Napier Lane neighbors still have unresolved concerns with this project including the proliferation of roof-top equipment, noise from the equipment, the size of the roof-top additions, light from the building at night and loss of parking places. The local neighbors are continuing to meet with the developer to resolve these issues.

2. **Piers 27-31.** P & Z is continuing to monitor the Port's desire to attract New York developer, Chelsea Piers Management, to develop a major sports and recreation complex on this 15-acre site. Although there is disagreement between the Port and BCDC as to the amount of public open space that should be included in the project, the Port has gone ahead and put out its RFP.

3. **Waterfront Lighting.** The Port is considering lighting some of the bulkhead buildings and other elements along the waterfront.

IV. PROPOSED NEW LANDMARK/SURVEY OF HISTORIC NORTH BEACH

1. **Washington Square Park Landmark Nomination.** The landmark designation of Washington Square as a City Landmark will be heard by the full Board of Supervisors by the end of November. Final passage is

Sean O'Donnell Handyman

"Anything can be fixed
except a fallen soufflé."

30 years experience.
Local & neighborhood references.

A Telegraph Hill Dweller
since 1982

415-398-1205

PLANNING AND ZONING

virtually assured. We are planning to celebrate Washington Square's recognition as a City landmark in the early part of 2000, its 150th anniversary as one of the city's original three squares and the only one that hasn't been converted into a parking garage.

2. **North Beach Historical Project.** On August 16th, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a resolution officially recognizing the North Beach Historical Survey and encouraging our efforts to update it. Volunteers are assisting architectural historian Anne Bloomfield with the survey work, and total donations received to date are up to \$6,860.00. In addition, THD has applied for a grant of \$5,000 from San Francisco Beautiful's Friedel Klussmann Grants Program for assistance in this regard. THD thanks SF Heritage for agreeing to accept tax deductible donations for the project and for acting as THD's fiscal agent for the grant. Anyone interested in donating time or money to this project, or learning more about it, should call Nancy Shanahan at 986-7070.

V. NORTH BEACH NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

(In 1987 the Board of Supervisors adopted the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District (NBNCD) Ordinance to maintain the character of, and mix of, businesses in North Beach.)

1. **PROPOSED LEGISLATION.**

Leno's North Beach Legislation—The legislation introduced by Supervisor Leno to limit large use sizes (like Rite Aid) and to discourage the consolidation of small storefronts was approved unanimously by the Board of Supervisor's Transportation and Land Use Committee on November 9th. These amendments to the Planning Code would provide a maximum use size in the NBNCD of 4,000 sq. ft. and would reduce the "as of right" ceiling from 2,499 sq. ft. to 1,999 sq. ft. This means that new uses occupying between 2,000

and 3,999 sq. ft. would require conditional use authorization and uses over 4,000 would be prohibited. (We agreed to exempt the Pagoda Theater from the maximum use of size only if the use is for a movie theater or other entertainment such as plays or live performances.) This legislation would also reduce from 3 years to 18 months the period of nonuse required for an existing nonconforming use or nonconforming size to become "abandoned" or "discontinued". The proposed legislation has the support of the North Beach Chamber, the Council of District Merchants, North Beach Neighbors, Russian Hill Neighbors and other neighborhood groups throughout the City as it represents a model for controlling the proliferation of large chain stores in neighborhood commercial districts.

Yee's Truth in Disclosure Act—Legislation introduced by Supervisor Yee would require disclosure in building permit, conditional use and variance applications, and in the notice of public hearing, of the name under which the applicant intends to conduct business and requires that the applications be signed under penalty of perjury. Supervisor Yee is also proposing legislation that would require all such notices to go to recognized neighborhood organizations. THD has expressed its support for Supervisor Yee's efforts in this regard. Unfortunately, the Planning Department and Planning Commission have not been enthusiastic about this "Truth in Disclosure Act" and have succeeded in delaying consideration of this legislation by the Board of Supervisors.

2. **1351 Grant Avenue (Back Street Bar, formerly Figone Hardware).** Protests were filed with the State Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) by THD and approximately 15 individual neighbors regarding the request for a new liquor license. As of the date of this report no determination has been made by ABC nor has a hearing date been set.

3. **1326 Grant Avenue** On November 4, 1999, the

continued on page 14

PLANNING AND ZONING

Planning Commission approved another Conditional Use Authorization for a bar (Cafe Royale) in the same block as the Grant and Green, Lost and Found, and the recently approved Back Street Bar. These premises have been operating as a bar by previous owners in violation of the Planning Code since 1995.

4. **Pagoda Palace Theater (1741 Powell St.)**. Representatives for the owner have asked whether the community would support the use of the Pagoda Palace as a theater for plays. Also, the architect for the owner has informed us that they are getting ready to file an application for a building permit to make alterations to the facade. We will be reviewing the plans to insure that they are consistent with the recommendations made by preservation architects Carey & Company to restore as much of the original appearance as possible.

5. **705-709 Union Street**. On November 4, 1999, the Planning Commission approved a Conditional Use Authorization (CUA) to permit (a) a new business and professional use on the first floor and basement level and (b) a use in excess of 2,499 square feet. THD did not oppose this CUA because the street level store front will be retained in its original 736 sq. ft. size and, as a condition of approval, the CUA requires (as suggested by THD) that: "Any change of use that involves a use size in excess of that principally permitted in the NBNCD shall require conditional use authorization" so that, for example, a restaurant could not move into this space without a new CUA hearing for size as well as for the restaurant use.

6. **2 Nobles Alley (at Grant Avenue)**. Chinatown Community Development Corp.'s request for Discretionary Review (DR) of this project (to demolish the small cottage at 2 Nobles Alley and replace it with a 4-story building) has still not been scheduled for hearing by the Planning Commission.

VI. BROADWAY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

(This Commercial District extends along Broadway from west of Columbus Ave to Osgood Place.)

412 Broadway (Boys' Toys). The extensive remodeling of this space has been completed and a new 15,000 sq. ft. adult entertainment establishment called "Boys Toys" is about to open for business without being required to obtain a Conditional Use authorization (CUA) from the Planning Commission (either for size or for adult entertainment use). THD has previously written letters to the Department advising them of what was going on and asking them to take action to require the necessary Planning Code approvals. The Planning Department is now taking the position that the use is not "adult entertainment" as defined in the Code and that because the building permits were issued in error in 1995 for the remodeling which is now complete, they don't think it's fair to require a CUA for size since so much money has already been spent on the remodeling. During public comment at the November 4, 1999 Planning Commission meeting, THD expressed concern about the Department's position but the Commission was not responsive. THD's Board of Directors has authorized an appeal (to the Board of Appeals) of the Planning Department's determination to not require a CUA.

VII. UPDATES ON OTHER PROJECTS

1. **COMMERCIAL**.

295 Bay Street (Rite Aid in the North Point Theater). Through meetings and correspondence, THD attempted to obtain enforceable commitments from Rite Aid that it would limit store hours, prohibit the sale of liquor, address parking and loading issues, improve on its standard signage and design, and agree not to ever locate a store in the North Beach Neighborhood Commercial District. Without addressing THD's concerns, Rite Aid applied for a building

PLANNING AND ZONING

permit. In response, THD filed a request for the Planning Commission to take Discretionary Review (DR). The DR hearing before the Planning Commission has not yet been scheduled.

435 Pacific Avenue With the input of San Francisco's Architectural Heritage and THD, the Landmarks Board recommended disapproval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for a project to demolish a building within the Jackson Square Historic District and construct in its place a 5-story office building. THD had previously supported an unsuccessful appeal by Heritage of the Planning Department's decision to approve a Negative Declaration (no impact determination) for the demolition. This project is significant because, if approved, it would be the first time since the designation of the Jackson Square Historic District in 1971 that a "compatible" or "potentially compatible" building is demolished; it puts over 30% of the buildings within the City's first historic district at risk of being demolished without environmental review and sets a dangerous precedent for the City's other historic districts.

2. **RESIDENTIAL.**

3 Montague Place. This proposal includes altering the facade of an existing two-story over garage residential structure, adding a partial third floor and a roof deck, and merging two existing dwelling units to create one large unit. THD requested a determination by the Zoning Administrator as to the application of a Notice of Special Restrictions (NSR) recorded against this property which prohibits the vertical or horizontal expansion of the building without a new variance unless the Zoning Administrator finds and determines that such expansion is compatible with existing neighborhood character and scale and does not cause loss of light, air, view or privacy to adjacent buildings.

1635-37 Grant Avenue. A decision by the Zoning Administrator is expected soon on this request for a variance from the rear yard setback requirements of

the Planning Code to accommodate the addition of a garage off Kramer Alley and the extension of the back portion of the second and third floors of this building to the rear boundary of this property.

391 Filbert Street. A variance granted to the previous owner of this cottage on the Filbert Steps required strict conformance with a specific set of plans worked out with THD. The new owner now wants to significantly change these plans to add two stories to this cottage and eliminate all rear yard area which would require a new variance. The P & Z Committee expressed its opposition to the project as proposed and recommended that it be scaled down.

308-310 Green Street. A request has been filed by a private party for the Planning Commission to take Discretionary Review (DR) of this proposed project to demolish an existing one story single family dwelling and garage at 310 Green St. and to construct two 40-ft condominium buildings. The DR focuses on the loss of small scale, sound housing in conflict with Prop M and other general plan policies pertaining to the retention of the City's existing housing stock.

Bill Bailey Cottage (115 Telegraph Hill and 361-377 Filbert). Joe Butler and Joe Luttrell are continuing to work with the Board of Supervisors and Garfield School to secure a location (between Telegraph Hill Blvd. and the school) for returning the historic Bill Bailey Cottage to the Hill. The other buildings that fronted on the Filbert Steps where the Bill Bailey Cottage once stood have been demolished and the large site is sitting vacant. No construction is taking place. THD previously expressed concern about possible erosion from the winter rains and other safety issues.

PIONEER PARK PROJECT UPDATE

By *Julienne M. Chrisensen*

The Pioneer Park Project was originally scheduled for construction this year. But the super-heated construction climate and resulting high bids forced the project into additional fundraising. Sufficient money—almost \$1.5 million—has been raised. The project may go out to bid as soon as December. If satisfactory bids come in within budget, construction may begin as soon as March of 2000. Construction is estimated by City engineers to require 4 to 6 months, without extensive weather or other unexpected delays. Replanting would take place over the fall and winter, to take advantage of winter rains.

Project members have been working with City agencies to try to reduce the inconvenience

caused by construction, particularly to those neighbors close to the park and those who use Telegraph Hill Boulevard as an access route to their Filbert and Greenwich Stair homes. Telegraph Hill Boulevard will be closed during construction hours for 3 to 4 months in an effort to speed up construction. But adjacent residents, the 39 bus, and delivery vehicles will be allowed through the boulevard at all times. One-third of the parking spaces at Coit Tower will be reserved for residents during construction hours. During non-construction hours, the boulevard will be open as normal and parking will be first come-first served, with the usual A sticker provisions.

Signs with contact information will be posted once the bids are awarded.

CLIP & SAVE "NUISANCE" NUMBERS

Supervisor Alicia Becerril stopped by a THD Board meeting to give us this list of convenience numbers.

Abandoned Cars	781-5865
Double-parked Cars	553-1631
Curb Painting	554-2336
Garbage Service Complaints	252-3800
Graffiti Hot Line	241-WASH
MUNI Complaints/Commendations	923-6164
MUNI Information	6SF-MUNI
Fix Potholes	655-2100
Signs—Missing or Damaged	554-9780
Street Cleaning/Illegal Dumping	695-2017
Street Lighting—Out of Order	554-0730
Traffic Signals—Out of Order	550-2736
Mobile Assistance Patrol	431-7400

The Next Earthquake Ready or Not?

**SFFD offers free
Neighborhood Emergency
Response Team (NERT) training
at Francisco Middle School
starting Thursday, February
10. In 6 evening classes you'll
learn how you and your neighbors
can deal with disaster
when there's no outside help.
For info call June Fraps, 392-
1187. Or, [www.slip.net/-nerts-
ffd/](http://www.slip.net/-nerts-
ffd/). To sign up call Patty
Yuen, 558-3456.**

KATHRYN R. BLUM

KATHY'S GARDEN CARE
WATERING - PRUNING - FEEDING - MAINTENANCE

*YOUR INDOOR PLANTS, OUTDOOR DECKS AND PATIO GARDENS
WILL LOVE MY EXPERIENCED TENDER LOVING CARE*

101 LOMBARD STREET, #215W
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

(415) 981-2540



The
Italian
Dining
Experience
in
San Francisco

Valet Parking Banquets up to 200
1512 Stockton Street (415) 392-1700

FRESH!
Homemade Pasta &
Fish from the
Pacific



Serving continuously from 11:45 to 1:45am Grant and Vallejo Streets (415) 434-2248

the **SAN REMO HOTEL**

- 1906 Historic Hotel
- \$50 - \$80 nightly



**"When I found the San Remo,
I knew I had struck gold."**

- Susan Spano, *New York Times*

Space available for events & meetings

2237 Mason Street Near Chesnut
(800)352-REMO • (415) 776-8688

OF COUNSEL TO
SPIEGEL LIAO & KAGAY

BARTHOLOMEW LEE
ATTORNEY AT LAW

88 KEARNY ST., SUITE 1310
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108-5530

TELEPHONE
(415) 956-5959
FACSIMILE
(415) 362-1431

Nice Renovation on Castle Street

There's a good view of Coit Tower from this quiet one-block residential street which runs north-south from Union to Green between Kearny and Montgomery Streets. Jerry Petruzzelli, a former THD President, bought the house at #41 Castle in 1989. Marriage and children presented the need for more space. But Jerry and his wife Dorena didn't want to leave the Hill. Instead of replacing the old house with one having no relationship to its neighbors, a practice which is nibbling away the history of many other City neighborhoods, they worked out a design with local architect and longtime THD member, Herb Kosovitz, which gives them 4-1/2 floors of living space in a sparkling new home which resonates in size, look and feel with characteristic

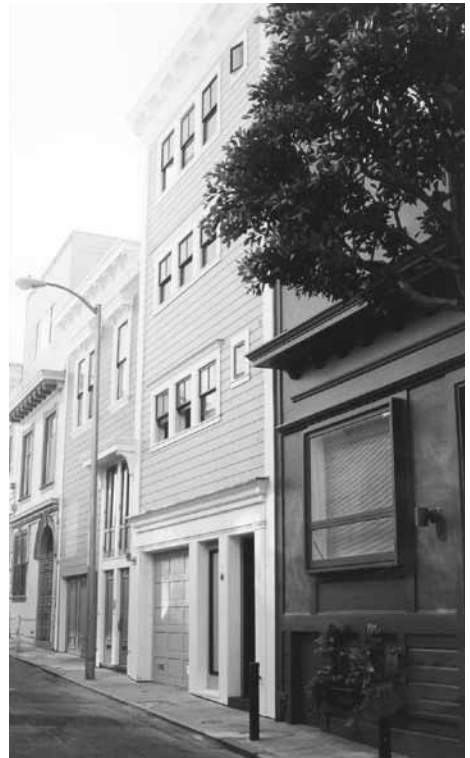
North Beach/Telegraph Hill residences.

Just under 40 feet on a 20 x 60-foot lot, added height provides new views from the back of the 5-bedroom house which overlooks a garden. Where there was no garage (on a no-parking street) there's now a 2-car hydraulic lift garage installed by Klaus Parking Systems. It took about a year to complete the renovation, during which contractors with Leiro Construction went out of their way to establish friendly relations with neighbors. The Petruzzellis are delighted with their new home. It's a pleasure to report a renovation which has added to, instead of subtracting from, the local urban landscape.



#41 Castle was too small for a growing family.

The renovated home is congruent with structures typical to the neighborhood.



ORAL HISTORY PROJECT: Joe Jachetta

Below are excerpts from an interview for THD's Oral History Project which records the life and work experiences of longtime local residents. For more information about the project, contact Dennis McElrath at 397-0201.

by Audrey Tomaselli

When the '06 earthquake struck, Joe Jachetta's mother was a six-year-old asleep in her family's Front Street restaurant and boarding house, The North Star. "A big chifforobe fell and blocked her bedroom door," Joe tells the story. "One of the tenants was a burly man who worked on a barge. He pushed the door open and carried her down the stairs, which were all crooked. Then he herded the whole family down to the waterfront, put them on his barge and sailed it to the middle of the bay where they watched the city burn."

A third generation North Beach Italian, Joe was born 75 years ago at 334 Vallejo Street where he lived on the first floor of a six flat building. He recalls the easy way neighbors related to one another. "It was easier for them to walk through our flat to get in and out of the

building. We'd be having dinner and people walked in. Nobody cared. It was, 'Hi, how are you, I'm going out on a date'. Or someone would come in to use the telephone, we had the only phone in the building, everybody used it, and the only radio. The tenants, the people next door or two houses away came over to listen to the radio.

After dinner I'd jump the fence from my backyard into the next backyard and run up the stairs to visit the Dinelli family. I'd walk right in their kitchen, wait in another room until they finished dinner, then we'd all play Monopoly.

Talk about the good old days; that was a wonderful feeling."

Prescott Alley across the street from the house provided Joe with a short cut to the back door of (then) Washington Irving grade school on Broadway between Sansome and Montgomery. He went on to attend Francisco Middle School and Galileo High School.

He and his friends often stopped at Athens Ice Cream Parlor (on Columbus between Union and Green) on the way home. "It had booths and a marble-topped counter," Joe

continued on next page



Joe Jachetta in his Telegraph Hill home on the day of his First Communion

ORAL HISTORY OF JOE JACHETTA CONTINUED

said. "They made fabulous sundaes. The most expensive thing you could buy—I think it was 30 cents—was called the Golden Gate Bridge which had nine scoops of ice cream, chocolate syrup and whipped cream."

On Sundays, Joe served as an altar boy at St. Francis of Assisi Church on Vallejo and Columbus (now the National Shrine of St. Francis). In his teens, he became sextant and recalls having to change the light bulbs down the center of the church's high Gothic ceiling.

"I used to climb up into the steeple and over the top of the lights and lie flat and look down and I could see the top of everyone's head during the service. I know St. Francis Church, every door, every corner; I know places nobody knows. Next time you're in there, look up at those light fixtures!"

Joe's grandfather Giacomino Gallo arrived in San Francisco from Italy in 1886. He worked as a waiter at the Fior d'Italia restaurant when it was located on Broadway at Kearny. Joe's mother Amelia was born in a room above the restaurant. Joe remembers his grandfather, "Nonno", well; seated at the head of the table, he refilled glasses by hoisting a big wine jug from the floor over a shoulder. His family made 200 gallons of wine each year.

Joe said, "I remember in our basement there was never less than a thousand bottles of wine, aging just right. I can smell it being made in these gigantic presses which went round and round and strained it until they got every drop. For fun, we used to take turns stomping the grapes. The container was pretty big, you needed a ladder to get into it. The truck would stop in front of the house and the driver would put a lug of grapes on the pavement so the kids could

help themselves; otherwise, we'd run back and forth and steal them from the truck. When the grapes arrived there was a telegraph system. Someone would yell 'fugi'. It was amazing! And the kids came running to help themselves to grapes. All the families in our building shared equipment and helped each other with the wine making."

In 1945 when he returned from the war Joe proposed to his wife, Lucy, in a nightclub on Bay and Columbus called La Fiesta on the night they won a rhumba contest. Previously, the building was occupied by Jachetta Brothers Body and Fender Shop.

"My father was the mechanic and my uncle was the body repair man." In 1948 after working as a hairdresser at The Emporium for a couple of years, Joe borrowed \$5,000 and opened the Parkview Salon in the Palace (now Pagoda) Theatre building on Powell Street.

"My mother was a fixture at St. Francis Church, so many of my first customers were from the Catholic Ladies' Aid. A friend became my partner and we paid off the debt in six months. We were partners for 34 years."

In 1958 Joe moved the business to the southwest corner of Union and Powell where it remained for 30 years. Ten years ago the salon moved to its present location on Union between Stockton and Columbus. "Some of my customers have been coming to me for 50 years. And I haven't burned out because I enjoy center stage. I enjoy what I do!"

With subjects' permission, complete transcripts and original tapes of interviews will be deposited with the San Francisco Public Library as historic records of the neighborhood.

600 VALLEJO STREET

Ficus Trees and the Rectory Building

the friars for whom the archdiocese finally provided a residence elsewhere in North Beach. Low rent for a mansion in this popular, expensive neighborhood is a good deal, so it's not surprising that almost two years later the tenants are still there. The archdiocese didn't break the lease with them, although it was

technically defunct when the Planning Commission turned down the permit. Conditions of the lease require the tenants to comply with prevailing law, which they did not. And to maintain the premises which, emphatically, they do not, yet they remain with the apparent approval of their indulgent landlord. Here the matter stands.

Gradual Healing

Telegraph Hill Dwellers delivered what they could, the new trees, in time to spruce up the premises for the big celebration held October 5 to mark St. Francis' feast day, the church's 150th anniversary, and its dedication as a National Shrine.

The planting project was managed by Julie Christensen, THD's Parks & Trees committee chair. She worked with Brian McCarthy in the mayor's office who made the critical phone calls to the Department of Public Works where Carrie Durkee organized the biggest part of the job, carting away the big trunks and pulling out the old roots. When that was done, Elliot Donnelley of The Garden Project brought in workers from the Tree Corps who prepared new wells and planted the trees which are cared for by Larry Sullivan, maintenance manager for the Shrine of St. Francis.

It indeed takes a village to plant and raise street trees, as THD learned when it enriched the neighborhood with almost new 400 trees in recent years. In this case, replacing dead wood with thriving life on a street now graced by amiable friars has been particularly satisfying.

continued on next page



Tree Corps members plant the first of two new trees at the St. Francis Rectory. At center, Larry Sullivan, maintenance manager for the Shrine of St. Francis. Photo by Mikkel Aaland.

600 VALLEJO

continued from previous page

By Patricia Cady

Because many locals ask about the status of the last private mansion in the North Beach Commercial District, here's an update.

New Kids on the Block

Two young ficus trees were planted September 29 across from Caffè Trieste on Vallejo near Grant. They replace their 40-year-old predecessors which were killed by hotel developers who expected to turn the St. Francis Church rectory into a commercial bed and breakfast operation, a *pensione*. Gray lifeless tree trunks blighted the street for almost three years. The developers wouldn't replace the trees, nor would the owner of the rectory, the Catholic Archdiocese, with whom they had negotiated a long-term lease on the 10 bedroom/4 garage mansion for a puzzlingly low figure of \$3,000 a month. Both parties' refusal to remediate the damage aggravated neighbors, as has the building's garish paint—the shade of ochre presumably selected with Umbria in mind was “off” from the start and time has not improved it. Until last year, the problem on the 600 block of Vallejo was much worse.

The Church Was Closed

When the archdiocese closed St. Francis of Assisi Church in July of 1994 regular maintenance ceased. That, and lack of external night lighting, created an unsightly homeless encampment. Pristine premises soon became the destination for 911 calls; brawlers left behind bloody stairs and broken glass. The archdiocese received angry complaints about the apparent abandonment of a city and state landmark. At least one newspaper reported that St. Francis, California's first parish church, was one of several grand old

churches to be put on sale for demolition and redevelopment. Parishioners who offered to raise money to complete the retrofit of this already steel-reinforced building were sent packing. The church's premises had become an eyesore and a health hazard. Two healthy trees were dead (three survived due to police intervention), and the archdiocese was apparently content with its destructive tenants.

The Church is Open

A new archbishop took over at about the same time an order of friars (Franciscan Friars OFM, Conv.) who had managed the Shrine of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy, requested the opportunity to open the church, not as a parish church, but as a potential national shrine. The archbishop said yes, and St. Francis, at the corner of Vallejo and Columbus Avenue, reopened February 22, 1998. Last September, it was officially designated as this country's National Shrine of St. Francis, now open daily to local and international visitors. The friars have proved to be good neighbors; their art exhibits and free public concerts attract growing audiences.

What About the Rectory?

The facts that have led to a stalemate are these. The new archbishop inherited the lease on the rectory where the developer/tenants were increasingly perceived by their neighbors as rude and secretive, thus flunking the 101 course on doing business in North Beach. In 1996-97, as the church declined, contractors' vans clogged the rectory's driveways while the interior of the mansion, historically a private residence for St. Francis' clergy, was completely renovated. The freeze was on. No one was supposed to know it was being turned into a commercial building, a

600 VALLEJO

fact that was obvious to anyone sitting across the street having a cup of coffee. Soon after the work was completed, the friars arrived with a long to-do list for restoring the church. They had no place to live, commuting from rectories in the Bayview District and Oakland, nor space to park. These inheritors of the traditions of Christianity's humblest saint didn't complain, but plenty of other people did. It seemed absurd that the industrious friars were homeless while the big rectory next door stood empty.

The Fight Was On!

On March 19, 1998, the developers requested the Conditional Use Permit needed to legally open the *pensione*. They were shocked when the hearing room at the Planning Commission filled with residents and merchants bent on opposing the permit. Shocked because no one was supposed to *know* about the *pensione*. One by one, speakers attacked the project. For starters, all of the interior renovation work had been done illegally; the developers hadn't obtained a single permit. That fact alone definitely burned up local business owners. Others speaking for the community objected to converting a private home into yet another commercial enterprise of little or no use to local residents, of a type that would uniquely complicate already snarled traffic and endanger children at the corner preschool. Someone displayed photos of the exterior paint job and the dead trees. Someone else produced a copy of "Sunset Magazine" in which an ad soliciting guests for *Pensione d'Assisi* had been placed months before the developers got around to asking for a permit. Catholic North Beach was represented by people who felt strongly that the friars ought to occupy the rectory, now that the

church had reopened, and everyone agreed with them. The developers played their ace. A City Planner had actually pre-approved the deal. It appeared to be one of those slam-dunks a community is supposed to learn about when it's too late to object. But after hearing the evidence, the Planning Commission unanimously denied the *pensione* the right to do business and the building has stood empty since.

Not Exactly Empty

Somebody lives there—friends and relatives of the developer/tenants, it's assumed, but not

The Tree Corps was founded in 1992 as a joint project of the San Francisco Sheriff's Department and the Department of Public Works. It employs former prisoners of the San Francisco County Jail who plant and maintain street trees on City maintained thoroughfares throughout San Francisco; so far, they've planted over 6,500 trees. Graduates have gone on to jobs with the City and local businesses. Some have returned to school, others have started their own businesses. The Tree Corps helps prevent crime, beautifies neighborhoods and gives people opportunities to have and hold a job. It's a proven model that works. For more information call Elliot Donnelley at 243-8045.

*We pack and ship your gifts as
carefully as you choose them.*



Finding the right gifts for everyone on your list requires a lot of thought. At Mail Boxes Etc.[®], we put the same effort into preparing your packages for shipment to friends and relatives across the country or around the world. Whether your presents are large or small, heavy or fragile, or even if you've waited until the last minute, we'll be there to take care of them. We know you're an expert at finding great gifts. And we're the experts at packing and shipping them.

1288 Columbus Ave. @ Northpoint **TEL: 885-7177 FAX: 885-7197**
Store Hours: 8 am – 6 pm Mon. – Fri.
 10 am – 4 pm Saturday
Call for our extended hours schedule



MAIL BOXES ETC.[®]

1-800-789-4MBE www.mbe.com

A Walk on the Wild Side

By Susan Prosser

The author, who lives in Phoenix with her own mitred conure, visited San Francisco, heard a familiar squawk and...well, she tells the story, which Cheryl Bentley forwarded from the parrots' web site at <http://wildparrots.com>.

My husband and I visited San Francisco one October weekend. We were headed for the cable car stop near Ghirardelli Square to buy bus passes when I heard a raucous noise overhead that sounded suspiciously like my mitred conure, Marlowe. I feared he'd escaped from home, cloned himself and followed us west. I looked up toward Fort Mason and saw 18-24 green parrots flying east. As I was marveling at the presence of wild parrots in San Francisco, I remembered stumbling onto a web site devoted to these guys when I was searching the web for information about mitreds. Suddenly, our unplanned, take-each-day-as-it-comes getaway was transformed into a hunt for the wild parrots. We went to the library on Saturday to use the computer and saw the greatly improved parrot website. By reading the weekly patterns and sighting reports and combining that with our own data (seeing some of the flock flying east toward Telegraph Hill about 2:30 PM), we decided to track them down.

So Sunday after Choral Mass at Grace Cathedral, we walked up Telegraph Hill searching the skies. The attendant at Coit Tower never heard of the wild parrots, nor of the intersection of Union and Calhoun. None of our feeble maps had Calhoun listed. The locals we accosted at the tower (yes, there were several) gave conflicting reports about the parrots' location and where Calhoun might be. We loitered in the park, took the requisite number of tour-

isty photos, then walked down the Filbert side of the park where we approached another local, who'd never heard of Calhoun, but knew where the wild parrots were. He pointed up the hill, told us where a feeder was and how to get there. It was after 3 PM by now and my husband was getting antsy. After 15 minutes waiting on the steps of a terrace, he was about to declare an end to the wild parrot hunt. We decided to walk up to the second level of the terrace to see if we'd misunderstood the directions. After admir-

continued on page 27

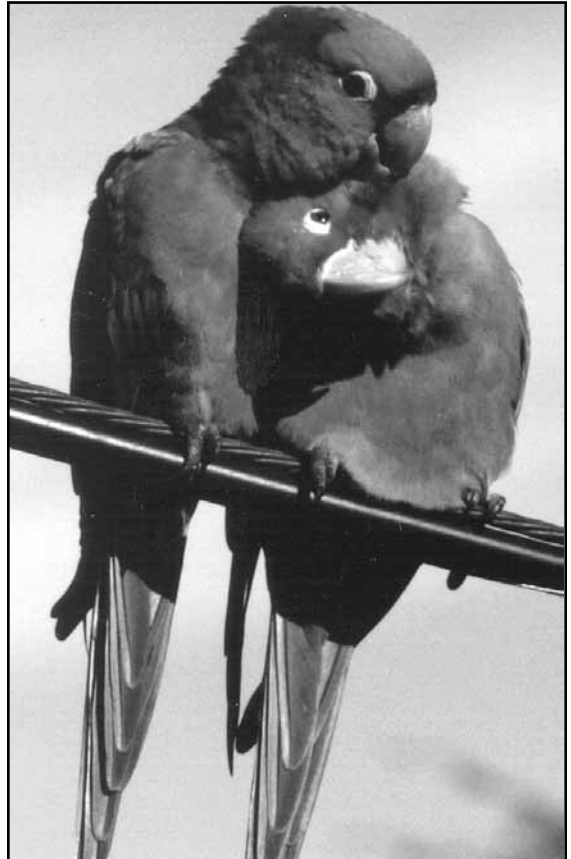


photo by Mark Bittner

WE'RE A PART
OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

SOTHEBY'S

International Realty

San Francisco Brokerage

432 Jackson Street, San Francisco, CA 94111

WHEN WE TAKE YOUR LISTING
WE TAKE IT TO THE WORLD

Danielle Chavanon

415 296 2224

Michael Bruno

415 296 2210

WILD SIDE *continued from previous page*

ing the wonderful, but completely parrot-free view for a few minutes, my husband began walking away. "Face it, this hunt's a failure," he said. Suddenly he called out to me, "Wait a minute..." I was still searching the skies when I heard the cries again, this time of a much smaller flock which wasn't much quieter than the big flock we'd seen Friday. I've always thought that Marlowe had some kind of craziness that came from being a pet, because he always screeches when he takes off, and screams the whole time he's in flight. It was nice to see it's just normal parrot behavior. The flock banked a couple of times over the trees, then headed back to a particular tree where they were soon joined by probably twenty more birds. In all, we saw about 35 birds of various sizes resting and feeding in an evergreen tree. We couldn't see the feeder, but we did see plenty of parrot hijinks, including a bird (had to be "Olive") hanging upside down, first from another bird's feet, then from a viney branch she used as a rope swing. Lots of spirited jostling for position on the branches, and loops out into the open air before heading back into tree cover. This was all stuff I've seen Marlowe do thousands of times, like preening and roosting and playing. I really loved seeing how well the flock was doing, and how closely Marlowe's behavior resembles that of his wilder relatives. As we walked near where Mark Bittner used to live, several birds flew through the garden, but didn't stay long. I figured they didn't much care for the new faces. They sure didn't like it when I gave an imitation of Marlowe's "I'm over here, where are you?" call, because they all vacated the premises immediately. Funny, most people find my southern drawl quite charming.

The great parrot hunt of October '99 was a big success. We'd have had a wonderful time in San Francisco even without encountering the flock, but it really put a stamp on our visit. Because of them we saw the new library where we used the computer, struck up conversations with lots of locals, and planned our days around what else we could do before and after the bird hunt. My favorite part of the trip was watching the flock. Who cares if these birds weren't native twenty years ago, they're locals now. The sad fact that the hawks have taken some of them prove they've become an integrated part of the ecosystem. The parrots form an essential part of your culture, too; San Francisco is a city of immigrants and these birds are no different than other influxes of now-natives who've enriched the local landscape. The one thing I know I'll want to do every time I go to San Francisco is to track down the birds. Encounter nature in the urban jungle. Imagine that! An essential part of your city will be gone if these birds are removed by well-meaning conservators. Best of luck to Mark and to the IDG film project. The parrots are a grand tradition.

POSTSCRIPT BY CHERYL BENTLEY: Although Mark Bittner has moved, his rambunctious friends still visit Telegraph Hill frequently. With autumn, come the chubby babies who fly with mom and dad for the first few months out of the nest. They are the flock's only all-green birds. Like human babies, they often explore by putting things in their mouths.

Visit the parrots' web site at <http://wildparrots.com> both to catch up on the latest news of the birds and to share your own experiences. The site is amassing a good number of sightings and longer accounts, such as Susan Prosser's, all of which contribute to our knowledge of our noisy friends. So the next time you hear a flyby, log on to add your sighting to those of your neighbors.

Recycle Hazardous Waste!

Ross Tibbits produced this easy-reference chart of drop-off locations most convenient for our neighborhood.

Residents of the Telegraph Hill area now have a number of options to properly recycle household hazardous wastes (HHW):

DROP-OFF LOCATION	ADDRESS	PHONE
-------------------	---------	-------

HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

Brownies Hardware	1563 Polk Street	673-8900
Circuit City	1200 Van Ness Avenue	441-1300
Front Ace	1552 Polk Street	673-8900
Camera Express	625 Grant Street	788-0443
Bridge Radio	200 Pine St. #140	616-0888

MOTOR OIL

Union 76	490 Bay Street	771-7730
Jiffy Lube	2030 Van Ness Avenue	922-7258
Mark Morris Tires	1200 Larkin Street	673-3441
Oil Changers	1461 Pine Street	931-9499
Chevron	2465 Van Ness Avenue	441-2240

LATEX PAINT

Christmas In April	Pier 28 (Embarcadero @ Bryant)	905-1611
Brownies Hardware	1563 Polk Street	673-8900
Cole hardware	70 4th Street	94107

For more information, please contact Maria Trapalis-Baird at 554-3444, or visit the City and County of San Francisco's Hazardous Waste Management Program web site at www.sfhazwaste.org

San Francisco Hazardous Waste Management Program

1145 MARKET STREET, SUITE 401 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 PHONE: (415) 554-3400 FAX: (415) 554-3434

Neighborhood News

Return of the Bear

Memo to the many friends of The Battered Bear of Washington Square: With Lotta's Fountain reinstalled on Market Street, our injured bear became No. 1 on the San Francisco Art Commission's list of monuments to be repaired and brought back home. It has been decided to make the bear's return to Marini Plaza one of the features of the dual celebration of the 150th anniversary of Washington Square and the anticipated official landmarking of the historic park. The date for this major party in the park (the Marini triangle was the southwest corner of Washington Square before the street was cut through) has not been set. It will be one of the events in the new year. Watch for announcements when favorable weather is likely to prevail.

—June A. Osterberg

Antique/Reproduction Furniture

It's good to see new service businesses open in the neighborhood, especially one as nice as the shop at 704 Filbert, corner of Columbus.

Andrea Corvasce, who left Rome in 1969, has worked 50 years as an artist/craftsman. His beautiful store is filled with furniture from around the world, also Deruta and Castelli ceramics from Italy. Andrea does fine woodworking repairs and refinishing. He specializes in murals and marbelizing—his son, John, is a muralist who learned his techniques in Rome's Academia del Superfluo.

This family business which includes Andrea's wife, San Francisco-born Patricia, was located in the Baker Hamilton Building at the Concourse; before that, at 1850 Union Street. Andrea has quite a local following which will find him comfortably established here. When asked why he decided to locate in North Beach Andrea replied, "I'm Italian, I feel comfortable here." Stop by to browse and welcome the Corvasce family to the neighborhood. Open weekdays 11AM-6PM, Saturday and Sunday Noon-5PM. Telephone 415-703-0476.

SEEKING THE IMPOSSIBLE?!! If you want an interesting, responsible, engaged tenant, or would prefer to sell your property to a person committed to resisting the assault of creeping monoculture on San Francisco, Chris Carlsson seeks your help: I am looking for a permanent home in North Beach/Telegraph Hill/Russian Hill. I am seeking a rental around \$850/mo. or a condominium around \$200,000. Contact me at 415/626-2160.

Andy & Judi are Married

Judi Powell and Andy Katz, son of THD founders Bob and Nancy Katz, were married September 12, then left for Paris where it looks like they had a wonderful time.



We Remember...

VIRGINIA MACCHIARINI, whose life was celebrated November 7 when friends met at Caffè Trieste, one of her favorite places. She and her husband Peter produced the first artists' street fair here in North Beach fifty years ago. We extend our sympathies to Peter, Dan and Nella, and to her many friends who miss her.

JUNE COYLE whose friends gathered October 10 in her longtime Vallejo Street home, purchased last year by her tenants Jeff Johnson and Michelle Haynie. June's old friend and neighbor, Gerry Hurtado, prepared a montage of the guests (below) and a last fond word:

June Coyle taught at the University of Colorado in Boulder before coming to San Francisco to take up a successful career in real estate. Raised in Tennessee, June was a true southern belle. She possessed grace, poise and talent. She loved the theater and often acted in plays locally. She played guitar and sang. An early member of Telegraph Hill Dwellers, June and husband John supported the Dwellers by attending its social functions and by making financial contributions to help support its many projects.

June Coyle is in the forefront of this montage flanked by friends. Row 1 L/R: Patricia Cady, Michelle Haynie, Jeff Johnson, Bob & Jean Anderson. Row 2 L/R: Colin & Naomi Campbell, Beatrice Taggi, Sally Gould, Bill & Georgia Haynie. Top row L/R: Janet Crain, Rosalie Taggi, John Barnes, Nora Quinn, Rod Freebairn-Smith, Dennis Wishne and Gerry Hurtado.



THD COMMITTEES NEED YOU...

You can make a difference! Join one of THD's committees, meet and work with your fellow Hill Dwellers to improve life on the Hill.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Parking and Transportation. Chair, Howard Wong, 982-5055. Promotes efforts to ease congestion, optimize white zones, upgrade public transportation. Works with Department of Parking and Traffic

Planning and Zoning. Chair Nancy Shanahan, 986-7094. Monitors and reviews proposed development projects for consistency with applicable City ordinances. Works with Planning Department staff and represents THD before the Landmarks Board, Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator and other regulating bodies to protect historic resources and maintain neighborhood character. Assists members to learn more about and participate in planning and zoning issues. Waterfront sub-Committee: Chair Leo McLaughlin, 434-4625

Semaphore. Editor Patricia Cady, 397-2175. The editor and staff produce a quarterly magazine for THD members.

Program. Chair Mary Purdy-Read, 433-9626. Arranges social events, including quarterly membership meetings and get-acquainted social functions.

Budget. Paul Switzer, 788-8667. As prescribed in bylaws for Treasurer.

Membership. Chair Rozell Overmire, 989-3945. As prescribed in bylaws for Financial Secretary.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES AND PROJECTS

Parks and Trees. Chair Julie Christensen, 552-7774. email julie@surfaces.com. Information and projects concerning local parks, green spaces and street trees.

Neighborhood Beautification
Chair Staci Shember, 434-4625. Creates opportunities to improve, beautify, and preserve the Hill. Through its awards program, recognizes individuals and businesses who enhance our neighborhood. Facilitates cleanup, gardening and graffiti removal.

Oral History Project Chair Dennis McElrath, 397-0201. Taped interviews provide historical documentation of living and working in the neighborhood.

Pioneer Park Improvement Project. Chair Howard Wong, 982-5055. Work party volunteers enhance the open space around Coit Tower, improving accessibility and safety through planning, landscaping work parties and fundraising.

THD Web Page. Webmaster Peter Overmire, 989-3945. Shared information about meetings, local concerns and events.

LIAISONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods and S.F. neighborhoods alliance for political awareness. Representative Gerry Crowley, 781-4201. City-wide organizations interact with other neighborhoods to discuss common problems.

N.E.R.T. June Fraps, 392-1187. Energizes members to take emergency disaster response training program sponsored by the City.

North Beach Coalition, Representative Arthur Chang, 331-9595 X 733. Joins local neighborhood organizations, school districts and TelHi Center to focus on issues related to children, senior, recreation and open space needs.

Police Liaison Committee. Chair, Dale Weidmer, 781-0335. Serves as liaison between THD and Central Station on matters of mutual interest and concern.

Access local crime statistics at www.ci.sf.ca.us/police/sfpd30.htm



REAL • ESTATE

SELLING FINE PROPERTIES SINCE 1973.

Resident and property owner on Telegraph Hill since 1976.

Please call us or visit our website at

www.sffinehomes.com

215 CHESTNUT STREET SAN FRANCISCO CA 94133

(415) 362-1100 FAX (415) 362-8500

THE TELEGRAPH HILL DWELLERS
P.O. BOX 330159
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94133

BULK RATE
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Francisco, CA
Permit No. 6781

THD CALENDAR

2nd Saturday Stair & Garden Work Parties. January 8.

February 12. March 11. Meet at Pioneer Park. For more information call 552-7774.

December 5. Annual Holiday Party at Julius' Castle.

December 14. ELECTION DAY. VOTE!

February 10. Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT) training begins. 6 evening classes. For info call 392-1187, or www.slip.net/~nertsffd/.

Spring Cocktail Party and General Membership/Dinner Meeting: Watch for postcard invitations.

150th Anniversary of Washington Square with Landmark Celebration. Watch for announcement.

Schedules of Committee Meetings

PLANNING & ZONING: Last Wednesdays. Call for time and location. 986-7070.

PARKING & TRANSPORTATION: 2nd Saturdays at 11 AM at Little City Restaurant, Union and Powell Streets.

NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION: 1st Mondays. Call for time and location. 434-4625.

PARKS & TREES. Call for time and location. 552-7774.